(d) if so, the extent of natural gas to be imported from these countries and also from other countries, with whom consultations are on for import of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) There has been no import of natural gas from any country so far. Feasibility studies for importing natural gas from Oman, Qatar and Iran are in progress. The possibility of importing gas from Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar is also being explored.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas Along Coast Line of Karnataka

3702. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for exploration of oil and natural gas along Karnataka's coast line; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Karnataka offshore area, sejsmic data has been acquired from 1977 onwards. Two blocks in the Karnataka offshore were taken up for exploration by Shell during Third Round of Bidding. They acquired 9898 L.K. of seismic data.

So far three Wells have been drilled one by ONGC and two by Shell without any success.

Though Blocks were offered during Fourth and Fifth Rounds also, no bid was received.

Presently, 2D Seismic data is being acquired in the deep waters including areas of the Karnataka Coast.

Contract for Blow out at Pasarlapudi—19 GAS well

3703. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blow out contract has been given to the International Well Control (IWC) a splinter group of the Red Addair of Texas US;

(b) if so, whether the team took up the work of blow out in Parasiapudi—19 gas well in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the estimated cost of the expenditure incurred on this contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b): M/s. Emergency Resouces International Inc. (ERI) Texas, USA having senior personnel of erstwhile Red Adair Co., assisted ONGC in the fire fighting and capping of the well.

(c) The expenditure incurred by ONGC is Rs. 136.77 lakhs.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

3704. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of Kerosene under the Public Distribution System is made on the basis of actual population, as per the 1991 census;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Governmet propose to allocate more Kerosene under PDS to Gujarat during 1995-96, on the basis of actual population as per the 1991 census;

(d) if so, th details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, with measures to be taken to meet the increasing demand of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of SKO to the States|UTs on historical basis and not on population basis. It is not practicable to adopt population alone as the basis for allocation of kerosene.

(c) to (e) On account of constraints of product availability foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States|UTs. However, a 3 per cent increase has been allowed per year for the past three years at the national level to meet partially the increasing demand of the States|UTs. Gujarat has been given an increase of 7983 MTs in the allocation of Kerosene during 1995-96 over last year.

The Government has permitted parallel marketing of SKO from February, 1993 under which substantial quantities of SKO are being imported and distributed in the State of Gujarat.

संसद सदस्यों के रसोई गैस कनक्शन के कोटे में वृद्धि

3705. श्री रामविलास पासवान : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार संसद सदस्यों के कोटे में निर्धारित रसोई गैस कनेक्शनों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां तो इसमें कब तक वृद्धि किये जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) से (ग) एल० पी० जी० की सीमित उपलब्धता तथा विशाल प्रतीक्षा सूची को ध्यान में रखते हुए फिलहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Report of the Expert Group on Import of Natural Gas

3706. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM ADN NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expert group headed by Shri P. K. Rudra, set up to examine the import of Natural Gas has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Expert Group has recommended *inter-alia*, that:

(i) In view of the growing demand for natural gas in the country serious efforts should be made to import gas particularly from Oman and Iran;

(ii) Half of the gas proposed to be imported from Oman be absorbed in the HBJ system and the other half be taken to Southern India to meet the demand of the Southern States.

(c) Government have accepted these recommendations.

Joint Refinery Projects by IOC and Gulf Oil Trading Corp

3707. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NANTURAL GAS be pleased to state: